

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	Criminal No. 1:25-CR- 203 (MAD)
)	
v.)	Plea Agreement
)	
JEAL SUTHERLAND,)	
)	
)	
Defendant.)	

The United States of America, by and through its counsel of record, the United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, and defendant **Jeal Sutherland** (hereinafter "the defendant"), by and through the defendant's counsel of record, hereby enter into the following plea agreement pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure:

1) **The Defendant's Obligations:**

- a) **Guilty Plea:** The defendant will waive indictment and plead guilty to Count 1 of the information in Case No. 1:25-CR- 203(MAD) charging use of interstate commerce facilities in the commission of murder-for-hire, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1958(a).
- b) **Special Assessment:** The defendant will pay an assessment of \$100 per count of conviction pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013. The defendant agrees to deliver a check or money order to the Clerk of the Court in the amount of \$100, payable to the U.S. District Court, at the time of sentencing.
- c) **Compliance with Other Terms of Agreement:** The defendant will comply in a timely manner with all of the terms of this plea agreement.
- d) **Restitution:**
 - (1) The defendant will consent to entry of an order directing the defendant's payment of restitution in full to any person or entity who qualifies as a victim of the offense of

conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 3663 or § 3663A, whether or not encompassed in the offense of conviction.

(2) The defendant agrees that the judgment will order restitution to be due and payable immediately subject to any payment terms set forth by the Court at sentencing and that the Clerk of the Court may release funds to victim(s) without undue delay upon receipt of restitution payments from the defendant.

e) **Access to Records:** The defendant authorizes the U.S. Attorney's Office to inspect and copy all financial documents and information provided by the defendant to the U.S. Probation Office, including those provided as a part of the Presentence Investigation. If requested, the defendant will provide any privacy waivers, consents, or releases requested by the U.S. Attorney's Office to access records to verify the defendant's financial disclosures, and if requested will complete a further financial statement provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office as well as any supporting financial documentation to the Asset Recovery Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office no later than 10 days after receiving such a request.

f) **No Transfer of Assets:** The defendant certifies that the defendant has made no transfer of assets in contemplation of this prosecution for the purpose of evading or defeating financial obligations that are created by this plea agreement and/or that may be imposed by the Court. In addition, the defendant promises not to make any such transfers in the future.

2) **The Government's Obligations:**

a) **Non-prosecution for other offenses:** For so long as the defendant's guilty plea and the sentence remain in effect, the government will not seek other federal criminal charges against the defendant based on conduct described in the information in Case No.

1:25-CR- 203 (MAD) and/or in the paragraph of this agreement entitled "Factual Basis for Guilty Plea," occurring before the date on which the defendant signs this agreement. This agreement does not prevent the government from seeking charges based on other conduct.

b) **Compliance with Other Terms of Agreement:** The government will comply in a timely manner with all of the terms of this plea agreement.

3) **Potential Maximum Penalties:** The defendant understands that the Court can impose the following maximum penalties for the offense to which the defendant agrees to plead guilty and may be required to impose mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment, all as set out below:

a) **Maximum term of imprisonment:** 10 years, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1958(a).

b) **Maximum fine:** \$250,000, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1958(a).

c) **Supervised release term:** In addition to imposing any other penalty, the sentencing court may require the defendant to serve a term of supervised release of up to 3 years, to begin after imprisonment. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3583. A violation of the conditions of supervised release during that time period may result in the defendant being sentenced to an additional term of imprisonment of up to 2 years.

d) **Other adverse consequences:** Other adverse consequences may result from the defendant's guilty plea as further described in paragraph F below.

4) **Elements of Offense:** The defendant understands that the following are the elements of the offense to which the defendant agrees to plead guilty. The defendant admits that the defendant's conduct satisfies each and every one of these elements.

a) *First*, the defendant used or caused someone else to use an interstate facility;

b) *Second*, the use of the interstate facility was done with the intent that a murder be committed in violation of the laws of any state or the United States; and

- c) *Third*, the murder in question was intended to be committed as consideration for the receipt of anything of value.
- 5) **Factual Basis for Guilty Plea:** The defendant admits the following facts, that those facts demonstrate the defendant's guilt for the offense to which the defendant is pleading guilty, and that there are no facts establishing a viable defense to that offense:
- a) At all relevant times, the defendant was in a romantic relationship with Female-1, who had a minor child with Victim-1. Victim-1 was a New York State prisoner.
 - b) In September 2024, the defendant discussed with CS-1 setting fire to the vehicle of Victim-2, who is Victim-1's mother. This was to threaten and intimidate Victim-2 against allowing Victim-1 to have a residence upon Victim-1 release from New York State Prison. On September 19, 2024, CS-1 set fire to Victim-2's vehicle and left a threatening note near Victim-2's front door referencing Victim-1.
 - c) At around Thanksgiving/late November 2024, the defendant asked CS-1 to kill Victim-1 after Victim-1's release from prison, which was scheduled for January 28, 2025, in exchange for forgiveness of debt owed by CS-1 to the defendant. When the defendant asked CS-1 to kill Victim-1, he knew that CS-1 was previously convicted of second-degree murder and was on parole.
 - d) On November 21, 2024, law enforcement confronted CS-1 about setting fire to Victim-2's vehicle. CS-1 then began cooperating with law enforcement as a confidential source.
 - e) Over the course of several recorded meetings in December 2024 and January 2025, the defendant and CS-1 planned Victim-1's murder. The defendant ultimately agreed that, in exchange for forgiveness of CS-1's debt, CS-1 would murder Victim-1 in New York and

drive the body in a van rented from a nun to a hog farm in Pennsylvania, where the body would be consumed by pigs.

- f) On December 27, 2024, the defendant sent a text messages from his cellphone to CS-1's cellphone setting up a meeting for the following morning. On December 28, 2024, CS-1 met with the defendant and had the following conversation:

CS-1: So, good to see you though because we have a few things to talk about that we can't talk on the phone about.

Defendant: What's up?

CS-1: So this guy won't tell me yes or no if our friend is getting out of prison or not on the 26th. Won't tell me.

JS: You scared they got your fucking phone number calling in there and then all of a sudden he shows up dead?

CS-1: Oh no he's not going to show up dead dude. That's the stupidest thing in the world man. If he shows up dead.

...

CS-1: We just want to know that he's gone. That you know he's gone. Not that somebody said he's gone that you know he's gone. So, I have a van that I can rent for like \$250 from a nun ["Sister-1"]. We take him to a farm and let the hogs eat him. Now you can go with me if you want.

Defendant: I'll be probably in Myrtle Beach that day.

CS-1: (laughs) I get it. But you can go with me if you want.

Defendant: No, [Female-1] wants him fucking strapped to a chair so she can hit him with a baseball bat. But you know what, she would fold like an accordion.

CS-1: We don't know, I mean I don't know, I don't know, I don't trust that she can keep her mouth shut. That's a fact. So that's why that you know he's gone, um, I need, I'm going to buy a burner, gonna buy a burner phone, you buy a burner phone. All right.

Defendant: mhmm.

CS-1: This way you can actually see the pictures and get rid of the phone. You can buy a phone with cash right?

Defendant: Absolutely.

CS-1: Ok, good, you don't have to buy one with [trails off]

Defendant: Send somebody in to buy it.

CS-1: I don't think you want to involve anybody else.

Defendant: Other people that cash checks for me, handle this I need you go buy me a phone.

CS-1: Well have them buy two phones then.

Defendant: Ok.

CS-1: All right. Or give me the money I'll buy it. I'll have a crackhead pay for it. So, we give Sister[-1] the \$250 for the fucking van, she got an E-ZPass on it.

Defendant: I don't know how you are going to be able to plan all this shit to happen in one day it could take 10 different days of tries and [trails off]

CS-1: No it's not going to take, it's going to be like yo do you want to come work for me, ok, you want to come work for me, ok, I'm meeting him at parole on the 26th. You know I'm going to parole waiting on him, I meet him at parole, I know how, listen, you looking for work. I pay cash every day, \$100. What, ok, here's my number, burner phone, calls me up, boom. I pick him up in the morning.

Defendant: Ok, that's more than I want to know.

CS-1: Ok.

Defendant: I just changed my mind.

CS-1: Oh, you don't want him dead now?

Defendant: Oh, no, I don't want him, I don't want to know anything about it.

CS-1: Oh, ok. Well you want to see, you want to see the proof he's dead?

Defendant: Of course.

g) On January 3, 2025, the defendant and CS-1 had the following conversation:

CS-1: This thing is going to disappear, he's dying. So, it's already set in motion, I'm going to do this shit, he's gone.

Defendant: Good.

...

CS-1: Ok, you gonna need \$250 for a van and you're gonna need \$1000 for the fucking hog farmer, that's it.

Defendant: I don't know how you are going to pick the day that you are going to get the van and do this, what if you can't find him, we don't know where he's staying.

CS-1: Dude, there's only two places he's going, alright, and I'll have his address, I'll have his address, only two places . . .

Defendant: He's going to be on parole? Cause he had two and a half to four, he did his two and a half [trails off]

CS-1: Yeah he's going to be on parole for the rest of the time.

Defendant: Ok.

CS-1: Yeah. But we're taking him out no body no fucking no evidence no nothing. So we're going to do \$250 for the van, \$1,000 for the hog farmer and that's it, and I need an E-ZPass. I don't know, I'm not going to get one in my name. I'm sticking it on the van.

h) On January 24, 2025, the defendant drove to Massachusetts with Female-1 and obtained a Canada goose carcass from a hunter.

i) Upon returning to the Capital Region later the same day, the defendant met with CS-1 and discussed the murder. The defendant told CS-1 that he would get pre-paid or "burner" cell

phones that evening. The defendant and CS-1 also discussed forgiveness of, among other things, CS-1's debt of several thousand dollars to the defendant as compensation for the planned murder. During this meeting, the defendant and CS-1 called an undercover Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (the "UC") who pretended to be the hog farmer. During the call, which was between two cellphones, the UC and CS-1 discussed CS-1 coming to the farm. The UC demanded advance payment for use of the farm, explaining, "I'm going to need something up front but I got the space man." CS-1 agreed to this condition and offered the farmer "booze," prompting the UC to request "a good bottle of bourbon."

- j) After the call with the UC, the defendant had Person-1, a recovering drug addict, get two prepaid cell phones, a bottle of bourbon, and an E-ZPass transponder for use in the planned murder. The defendant also gave Person-1 the dead goose and asked Person-1 to place the carcass on Victim-2's doorstep, along with a threatening note handwritten by Person-1. The defendant told Person-1 exactly what to write in the note.
- k) On January 26, 2025, the defendant and CS-1 met for breakfast at a restaurant in Watervliet, New York. The defendant and CS-1 then went to a bowling alley in Latham, New York, where the defendant gave CS-1 one of the prepaid cell phones. The defendant and CS-1 then went to Schenectady, New York, where the defendant gave CS-1 the E-ZPass transponder and a bottle of Wild Turkey bourbon for the hog farmer. The defendant also gave CS-1 \$1,450 in cash for the following purposes: \$1,000 for the hog farmer, \$250 to rent the van from the nun, and \$200 for gas to and from the hog farm in Pennsylvania. During an ensuing conversation, CS-1 asked the defendant if he wanted to come to Pennsylvania to see Victim-1's body. The defendant responded, "I'm on purpose going to

Florida” and later told CS-1, “I want to do this smart but I want . . . my face to be the last thing he sees.” At this point, the defendant had plane tickets for himself, Female-1, and Female-1’s child to fly from Albany to Florida on January 28, 2025, returning on February 1, 2025.

- l) The same day, January 26, 2025, Victim-2 discovered the Canada goose carcass on her doorstep, which was placed there by Person-1. The threatening note addressed to Victim-1 written by Person-1 at the defendant’s direction was stuffed in the dead goose’s beak.

6) **Sentencing Stipulations:**

- a) The parties agree that the applicable base offense level is 32, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2E1.4(a)(1).
- b) The government will recommend a 2-level downward adjustment to the applicable federal sentencing guidelines offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a) if, (i) through the time of sentencing, the government is convinced that the defendant has demonstrated “acceptance of responsibility” for the offense to which the defendant is pleading guilty and all relevant conduct, as defined in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3; and (ii) the government does not determine that the defendant, after signing this agreement, committed any other federal, state, or local crimes, or engaged in conduct that constitutes “obstruction of justice,” as defined in U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1.
- c) The government will move for a 1-level downward adjustment to the applicable federal sentencing guidelines offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b) if the government is convinced that the defendant has accepted responsibility within the meaning of U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a) and further assisted authorities in the investigation or prosecution of the defendant’s own misconduct by timely notifying authorities of the defendant’s intention to

enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the government to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the government and the court to allocate their resources efficiently, and the defendant otherwise qualifies for such adjustment by having a combined offense level of 16 or more before receipt of any acceptance of responsibility adjustment under U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a).

7) **Waiver of Rights to Appeal and Collateral Attack:** The defendant waives (gives up) any and all rights, including those conferred by 18 U.S.C. § 3742 and/or 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241 and 2255, to appeal and/or to collaterally attack the following:

- a) The conviction resulting from the defendant's guilty plea;
- b) Any term of imprisonment of 87 months or less;
- c) Any sentence to a fine within the maximum permitted by statute;
- d) Any sentence to a term of supervised release within the maximum permitted by statute;
- e) Any condition of supervised release on any ground (including procedural or substantive unreasonableness) that the defendant did not raise in the District Court despite both (i) notice in the presentence investigation report that the Probation Office had recommended the condition and (ii) an opportunity to object in the District Court;
- f) Any order of forfeiture or restitution imposed by the Court that is consistent with governing law and is not contrary to the terms of this agreement; and
- g) Any special assessment permitted by statute.

Nothing in this appeal waiver is meant to be or should be construed as a representation of or agreement concerning the appropriate sentence in this case. The Government and the defendant agree that this waiver applies regardless of whether any term of imprisonment is imposed to run consecutively to or concurrently with, in whole or in part, the undischarged portion of any other

sentence that has been imposed on the defendant at the time of sentencing in this case. If the court imposes a term of imprisonment at or below the number of months specified above, the defendant's waiver of appeal and/or collateral attack includes any claim of procedural or substantive error in the determination or imposition of the term of imprisonment. If the court imposes a term of supervised release and/or a fine within the maximum permitted by statute, the defendant's waiver of appeal and/or collateral attack includes any claim of procedural or substantive error in the determination or imposition of the term of supervised release and/or fine. The defendant further waives the right to raise on appeal or on collateral review any claim that (a) the statute to which the defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional and (b) the admitted conduct does not fall within the scope of the statute. The defendant does not waive the right to raise a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel in an appeal or collateral attack on his conviction and sentence.

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- A. **Right to Counsel:** The defendant has the right to be represented by counsel—and if necessary have the court appoint counsel—at trial and at every other stage of the proceeding. Defense counsel has advised the defendant of nature of the charges to which the defendant is agreeing to plead guilty and the range of possible sentences.
- B. **Waiver of Trial-Related Rights:** The defendant has the following additional constitutional rights in connection with the charges in this case: (i) to be presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt; (ii) to plead not guilty; (iii) to trial by jury; (iv) to confront, cross-examine, and compel the attendance of witnesses at trial; (v) to present defense evidence; and (vi) to remain silent and be protected against compelled self-incrimination. The defendant understands that by pleading guilty, the defendant waives (gives up) these rights.
- C. **Court Not Bound by Plea Agreement:** This plea agreement is made pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. The Court is neither a party to, nor bound by this Plea Agreement. The Court may accept or reject this Plea Agreement or defer a decision until it has considered the Presentence Investigation Report prepared by the United States Probation Office. If the Court rejects the provisions of this agreement permitting the defendant to plead guilty to certain charges in satisfaction of other charges, the Court will permit the defendant to withdraw the plea of guilty before sentencing, pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(5) & (d).
- D. **Court Not Bound by Agreed-Upon Recommendations, Stipulations, and Requests:** If this agreement contains any provisions under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(B) by which the government agrees to recommend, stipulates, or agrees not to oppose the defendant's request, that a particular sentence or sentencing range is appropriate or that a particular provision of the

federal sentencing guidelines, or a policy statement, or sentencing factor does or does not apply, such a recommendation, stipulation, or request does not bind the Court, which may make independent factual findings by a preponderance of the evidence and may reject such recommendations, requests, and stipulations between the parties. If the Court rejects one or more recommendations, stipulations, or requests, the defendant is not entitled to withdraw the defendant's plea of guilty and is not released from the obligations described in this agreement. Under such circumstances, the government reserves the right to support and defend, in connection with any post-sentencing proceedings, any decision the Court may make with regard to the defendant's sentence, whether or not such decision is consistent with the government's recommendations, stipulations, or requests set out in this agreement.

E. Sentencing:

- a. **Maximum terms of imprisonment:** The defendant understands that the Court has discretion to impose a sentence within the statutory maximum sentence(s) set out in this agreement. If the defendant is pleading guilty to multiple charges, the Court may be required by law to have the sentences of imprisonment on the convictions resulting from those charges run consecutively to each other. Otherwise, the Court has discretion to have sentences of imprisonment run concurrently or consecutively. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3584.
- b. **Mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment:** If specified in this agreement, the conviction on one or more charges to which the defendant has agreed to plead guilty may require imposition of a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment. In such cases, the court must impose a term of imprisonment no less than the required mandatory minimum term unless an exception to that requirement applies. Such exception may be dependent on a motion by the government.

- c. **Section 851 Enhancements:** The defendant understands that if the government has filed an information against the defendant as provided in 21 U.S.C. § 851, alleging that the defendant has one or more final convictions for a felony drug offense, and, as part of this agreement, the defendant has admitted and/or affirmed that the defendant was so convicted, then, by pleading guilty, the defendant will lose the right to attack any sentence the court imposes by challenging any such prior conviction.
- d. **Sentencing guidelines:**
- i. The actual sentence to be imposed upon the defendant is within the discretion of the sentencing Court, subject to the statutory maximum and mandatory minimum penalties, as described above, and the provisions of the Sentencing Reform Act and the United States Sentencing Guidelines promulgated thereunder. While the Court is not bound to impose a sentence within the applicable sentencing guidelines range, it must take into account the sentencing guidelines, along with the other factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).
 - ii. Any estimate of the defendant's offense level, criminal history category, and sentencing guidelines range provided before sentencing is preliminary and is not binding on the parties to this agreement, the Probation Office, or the Court. Until the Probation Office has fully investigated the defendant's criminal history, it is not possible to predict with certainty the defendant's criminal history category and, in some cases, the defendant's offense level.
 - iii. Under certain circumstances, the defendant's criminal history may affect the defendant's offense level under the federal sentencing guidelines. If the presentence investigation reveals that the defendant's criminal history may support an offense level

different than an offense level stipulated in this agreement, the parties are not bound by any such stipulation as to the defendant's offense level and may advocate with respect to how the defendant's criminal history affects the offense level.

- e. **Factual findings:** The defendant understands that the sentencing Court may make factual findings with respect to any and all sentencing factors and issues, including those referenced in the United States Sentencing Guidelines, whether or not such factors or issues have been admitted by the defendant or stipulated by the parties. In making those findings by a preponderance of the evidence, the Court may consider any reliable evidence, including hearsay. The Defendant understands that the sentence imposed may be determined based upon such judicial fact-finding.
- f. **Use of the Defendant's Statements:** The defendant understands that the sentencing court may consider any statement that the defendant has made or makes in this Plea Agreement, during the guilty plea, to the Probation Office, and at sentencing when imposing sentence. In addition the government may be able to use the defendant's statements in this agreement and at the guilty plea and at sentencing in any criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding. For example, if the defendant fails to enter a guilty plea (as required by this agreement) or the defendant's guilty plea is later withdrawn or vacated for any reason other than the Court's rejection of this Plea Agreement under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(5), the government may introduce the defendant's statements into evidence in any prosecution. If, however, the Court rejects this Plea Agreement under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(5), and the defendant withdraws the guilty plea pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(d)(2)(A), the government will not be permitted to use any of the defendant's statements in this Plea Agreement. To the extent that Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and/or Rule 410 of the

Federal Rules of Evidence are inconsistent with this paragraph, the defendant waives (gives up) any protections under those rules.

- g. **Government's Discretion to Recommend a Sentence:** Unless a stipulation in this agreement explicitly limits the government's discretion with respect to its recommendations at sentencing, this agreement does not prevent the government from urging the sentencing Court to find that a particular offense level, criminal history category, ground for departure, or guidelines range applies; from recommending a specific sentence within the applicable guidelines range as determined by the Court or as urged by the government; or, if the government deems appropriate, recommending that the Court impose a sentence above the applicable guidelines range.
- h. **Sentencing-Related Information:** The government has the right to advise the sentencing Court and the Probation Office of any information, in aggravation or mitigation of sentencing, whether or not encompassed within the count(s) to which the defendant has agreed to plead guilty, subject only to the limitation described in U.S.S.G. §1B1.8. No stipulation in this plea agreement limits the obligations of both parties to ensure that the sentencing Court has all information pertinent to its determination of an appropriate sentence. The parties may provide any factual information relevant to sentencing to the Probation Office and/or to the Court, without limitation, before or after the completion of the Presentence Investigation Report. The parties agree that the submission of such information shall not be deemed "advocacy" in violation of any stipulation in this plea agreement.
- i. **Supervised Release Term and Conditions:** If the defendant is placed on supervised release, under some circumstances, including the defendant's violation of one or more

supervised release conditions, the Court may extend the term of supervised release, and may modify, reduce, or enlarge the conditions of such release.

F. **Other Adverse Consequences:** The following are some examples of the adverse consequences of pleading guilty other than the sentence imposed by the Court, along with any judicial order of forfeiture and/or restitution:

- a. Conviction of a felony may result in the loss of civil rights, including, but not limited to, the right to vote and the right to possess firearms.
- b. If the defendant is not a United States citizen, such conviction may result in deportation or removal from the United States, may bar readmission to the United States if the defendant leaves the country, and may result in a denial of a pending or future application for citizenship. If the defendant is a naturalized citizen, such conviction may result in denaturalization, followed by deportation or removal from the United States. Under federal law, removal or deportation may be an almost certain consequence of a conviction for a broad range of federal offenses, including, but not limited to, aggravated felonies, as defined in 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(43), and crimes of moral turpitude, which includes crimes involving fraud. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding. No one, including the defendant's attorney and the Court, can predict with certainty the effect of the conviction resulting from this agreement on the defendant's immigration status. The defendant understands this uncertainty and nonetheless wishes to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that the guilty plea may entail, even if the consequence is the defendant's automatic removal from the United States.

- c. A felony conviction may adversely affect the defendant's ability to hold certain professional licenses and may impair the defendant's ability to do business with federal, state, and local governments or to receive benefits from such governments.

There may be other adverse consequences as well, some of them unforeseeable. It may be difficult or impossible to predict all of the adverse consequences of the defendant's guilty plea. The defendant agrees that any resulting adverse consequences, whether or not foreseen or foreseeable, will not provide a basis for withdrawing from the guilty plea described in this agreement or otherwise challenging the resulting conviction and sentence.

- G. **Restitution:** Independent of any agreement to pay restitution, and whether there is any such agreement, the sentencing Court may be required to order that the defendant pay restitution to any victim of the offense(s) of conviction under the Mandatory Victim Restitution Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3663A. In addition, the sentencing Court may have the authority to order that the defendant pay restitution to any victim of the offense(s) of conviction pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663 & 3664. In any case involving a conviction for a sexual exploitation offense in chapter 110 of title 18 of the United States Code, the Court must order restitution for the full amount of the victim's losses as determined by the court. The victim's losses include, but are not limited to medical services related to physical, psychiatric, or psychological care; physical or occupational therapy or rehabilitation; necessary transportation, temporary housing, and child care expenses; lost income; attorney's fees and other costs; and any other losses suffered by the victim as a proximate result of the offense. The restitution payment will be in addition to any other civil or criminal penalty authorized by law.

H. **Forfeiture:** If the defendant has agreed to forfeiture of assets, the defendant agrees to the following terms and conditions:

- a. The defendant hereby forfeits, to the United States, all right, title, and interest of any nature in any and all assets that are subject to forfeiture, including substitute assets, as set forth above, whether those assets are in the possession or control of the defendant, a nominee, or some other third party.
- b. The defendant consents to the entry of an order of forfeiture of the assets described above.
- c. The defendant is aware that pursuant to Rule 32.2(b)(4)(A) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, a preliminary order of forfeiture becomes final as to a given defendant at sentencing or at any time before sentencing if the defendant consents. The defendant consents that the preliminary order of forfeiture in this case shall become final as to the defendant before sentencing, as of the date the preliminary order of forfeiture is entered by the Court. The defendant understands that the government, upon entry of the preliminary order of forfeiture, will address any potential third party claims pursuant to Rule 32.2(c), and seek to finalize forfeiture.
- d. Forfeiture of the defendant's assets will not satisfy all, or any portion of, a fine, restitution, or other monetary penalty that the Court may impose upon the defendant in addition to forfeiture. Satisfaction of all, or any portion of, any restitution, fine, or other penalty that the Court may impose upon the defendant in addition to forfeiture will not satisfy all, or any portion of, any forfeiture judgment ordered by the Court.
- e. In the event that any successful claim is made, by any third party, to the assets described above, the defendant agrees to forfeit substitute assets equal in value to the assets

transferred to any such third party. The defendant agrees that forfeiture of substitute assets shall not be deemed an alteration of the Defendant's sentence.

- f. The defendant agrees to cooperate with the United States by taking whatever steps are necessary to pass clear title to the United States of any forfeitable assets, including but not limited to, surrendering title; completing any documents or legal proceedings required to transfer assets to the United States; and taking necessary steps to ensure that assets subject to forfeiture are not sold, disbursed, expended, destroyed, damaged, hidden or otherwise made unavailable for forfeiture or removed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court.
- g. The defendant waives the right to a jury trial on the forfeiture of assets. The defendant waives all constitutional, legal, and equitable defenses to the forfeiture of assets, as provided by this agreement, in any proceeding, including but not limited to any jeopardy defense or claim of double jeopardy or any claim or defense under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution, including any claim of an excessive fine.
- h. The defendant acknowledges that the government may institute civil or administrative proceedings against any or all of the defendant's forfeitable assets, including, but not limited to substitute assets and any forfeitable assets not identified by the defendant, and agrees not to contest any such forfeiture proceedings.
- i. The defendant represents and warrants that the defendant has no direct or indirect interest in any property, real or personal, or other asset subject to forfeiture by virtue of this plea agreement, other than those listed above.
- j. In the event the government determines that the defendant has breached any condition of this plea agreement, none of the forfeited property shall be returned to the defendant, nor shall the defendant assert any claim to the forfeited property. The defendant shall not

reacquire any forfeited property, directly or indirectly, through family members, nominees, friends, or associates.

I. Determination of Financial Condition and Payment of Interest and Penalties:

- a. In order to facilitate the collection of financial obligations to be imposed in connection with this prosecution, the defendant agrees fully to disclose all assets in which the defendant has any interest or over which the defendant exercises control, directly or indirectly, including those held by a spouse, nominee, or other third party.
- b. The defendant will promptly submit a complete, accurate, and truthful financial statement to the United States Attorney's Office, in a form it provides and as it directs.
- c. The defendant authorizes the United States Attorney's Office to obtain a credit report on the defendant in order to evaluate the defendant's ability to satisfy any financial obligation imposed by the Court.
- d. Interest and penalties may accrue, as a matter of law, on any unpaid financial obligation imposed as part of the defendant's sentence, from as early as the date of sentencing.

J. Remedies for Breach:

- a. Should the government determine that the defendant, after the date the defendant has signed this plea agreement, (i) has committed any further crime or violated any condition of release or supervision imposed by the Court (whether or not charged); (ii) has given false, incomplete, or misleading testimony or information; or (iii) has moved to withdraw the defendant's guilty plea for reasons other than those described in this agreement or otherwise has breached any term or condition of this plea agreement or supplemental agreements with the government, the government will have the right, in its sole discretion, to void this agreement, in whole or in part. In the event of such breach, the defendant will

remain obligated to plead guilty and otherwise comply with the terms of this agreement and will not be permitted to withdraw the defendant's guilty plea under this agreement. The defendant will be subject to prosecution for any federal criminal violation of which the government has knowledge, including but not limited to charges that this Office has agreed to dismiss or not to prosecute under this agreement.

- b. If the defendant breaches this agreement, the government will have the following remedies, among others, available to it:
 - i. To bring prosecution for any federal criminal offenses dismissed or not prosecuted under this agreement. The defendant waives (gives up) any defense or objection to the commencement of any such prosecution that is not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations as of the date on which the defendant signed this plea agreement, notwithstanding the expiration of the statute of limitations between the signing of the agreement and the commencement of any such prosecution.
 - ii. In connection with any such prosecution, any information, statement, and testimony provided by the defendant, and all leads derived therefrom, may be used against the defendant, without limitation and without regard to any rights the defendant may have under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(f) and Fed. R. Evid. 410.
 - iii. To utilize any information, statement, or testimony provided by the defendant in any proceeding, including at sentencing, notwithstanding U.S.S.G. §1B1.8;
 - iv. To advocate if, and how, any particular adjustment or specific offense characteristic affects the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range without regard to any contrary stipulations contained in this agreement;

- v. To refrain from making any sentencing-related motion favorable to the defendant without regard to any provision in this agreement obligating the government to consider making or make such motion upon fulfillment of certain conditions;
- vi. To urge the sentencing Court to take the defendant's breach into account when imposing sentence;
- vii. To recommend any sentence the government deems appropriate, even if such recommendation is at odds with any stipulation in this agreement.

K. **Limitations:** This agreement is between the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York and the defendant. References to "the government" in this agreement refer only to that Office. This agreement does not bind any other federal, state, or local prosecuting authorities. Furthermore, this agreement does not prohibit the United States, any agency thereof, or any third party from initiating or prosecuting any civil or administrative proceedings directly or indirectly involving the defendant, including, but not limited to, proceedings by the Internal Revenue Service relating to potential civil tax liability, proceedings relating to the forfeiture of assets, and proceedings by the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services relating to the immigration status of the defendant.

L. **Agreement Must be Signed; Modifications Must be Written or on the Record:** This agreement, to become effective, must be signed by all of the parties listed below. No promises, agreements, terms, or conditions other than those set forth in this plea agreement will be effective unless memorialized in writing and signed by all parties or confirmed on the record before the Court.

M. Agreement to Plead Guilty Voluntary: The defendant acknowledges reading each of the provisions of this plea agreement with the assistance of counsel and understands its provisions. The defendant further acknowledges that the defendant's agreement to plead guilty is voluntary and did not result from any force, threat, or promises (other than the promises in this plea agreement and any written supplemental agreements or amendments).

JOHN A. SARCONI III
United States Attorney



Joshua R. Rosenthal
Joseph S. Hartunian
Assistant United States Attorneys
Bar Roll Nos. 730700 & 704398

5/12/25

Date



Jeal Sutherland
Defendant

5/8/25

Date



Andrew R. Safranko, Esq.
Attorney for Defendant
Bar Roll No. 510803

5/8/25

Date